



Bringing faith and education together

# Coronavirus(COVID-19): Guidance

- The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are
  - a new continuous cough **or**
  - a high temperature **or**
  - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

## If symptoms develop in school:

- If a child or adult develops any symptoms while they are at school, they will immediately be isolated and their temperature will be checked. The isolation area will be ventilated as much as possible. Parents will be called to arrange for immediate collection. Any adult in contact should wear a face covering and if 2m distance cannot be maintained, gloves and an apron should also be worn. After they have dealt with the symptomatic case, they should wash their hands thoroughly for a minimum of 20 seconds. The adult will **not** need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.
- The area will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before it is used again.
- If a child (or adult) is sent home from school with these symptoms, however mild, they should take a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test and remain in isolation until they receive the result. If the test result is positive they should self-isolate for 10 days from the first day that the symptoms were noticed.
- Anyone who has tested positive with a LFT (Lateral flow test) should self-isolate and take a confirmatory PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test and remain in isolation until the result is received. If the test result is **positive** they should continue to self-isolate, for 10 days from the first day that the symptoms were noticed. If the PCR is taken within 2 days of the LFT and the result is **negative**, the person may return to school.
- **Schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Close contacts will now be identified by NHS Track and Trace.**
- The NHS will communicate with anyone who has received positive test results (or their parents) and will work to identify close contacts.
- The NHS Track and Trace team will then contact anyone deemed to have been in close contact and advise that they take a PCR test.
- Children under 18 years and 6 months and adults who have been double vaccinated **do not need to self-isolate even if they have been in contact with a positive case unless they develop any of the symptoms.**
- **Schools are no longer expected to inform parents/carers of any positive COVID cases in school**

## Exemptions from isolation

From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are notified you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an [MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK](#), and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

Anyone who has been notified by NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact who meets the requirements not to self-isolate and is 5 years or over, is still advised to get a PCR test, however, they do not need to isolate, whilst waiting for the result, unless they develop symptoms. They should not arrange to have a PCR test if they have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. If they test positive they need to isolate as per the latest guidelines.

## The Outbreak Management Contingency Plan

- If the number of positive cases substantially increases within school, contact will be made with the Directors for Public Health who will provide instructions and advice.
- They may advise using the DfE Contingency Framework Guidance.

### Possible actions may include:

- Bubbles may be re-introduced for short periods of time
- More activities may be scheduled outdoors
- Increased ventilation in classrooms, where this would not significantly impact on thermal comfort
- One-off deep cleaning of contaminated areas
- Daily LFT (Lateral flow testing) of staff
- Pupils encouraged to take regular LFTs
- Staff may be required to use face coverings in communal areas – **NO CHILDREN TO WEAR MASKS**
- Parents may temporarily be refused school access
- Residential educational visits may be cancelled
- Open days etc. may be cancelled
- **LAST RESORT** – a DPH may advise introducing short-term attendance restrictions in a setting, such as sending home a class or phase group
- If this is directed, Vulnerable and Keyworker children will remain in school
- Duration of the closure will be dictated by the DPH (Dept for Public Health)

## To help prevent spread of infection:

- Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and water or hand sanitiser, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, before you eat or handle food, or when you get to school or arrive home
- Cover your mouth and nose with disposable tissues when you cough or sneeze. If you do not have a tissue, sneeze into the crook of your elbow, not into your hand. Dispose of tissues into the rubbish bin and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser.
- Regularly touched objects and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

## Definitions

### A New Continuous Cough

- The coronavirus cough is a dry cough – it is not a chesty cough and doesn't produce phlegm or mucus
- Persistent coughing for more than an hour  
**OR**
- 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- If you normally have a cough, it may be worse than usual

### A high temperature of fever

- A fever is 37.8 degrees centigrade or higher
- Symptoms of a fever may include:
  - your head, chest, neck or back feeling hot to the touch
  - feeling sweaty or achy

### Close contact

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with someone who has tested positive for any length of time, within 1 metre, including:
  - being coughed on
  - a face to face conversation within 1 metre
  - skin to skin physical contact or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

# Appendix A



## PHE SE COVID-19 Flowchart for Educational settings

### What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in an educational setting?

Did the positive child /student/staff member attend educational setting during the infectious period: 2 days before symptom onset (or test date if asymptomatic) to 10 days after?  
**NO** – no further action required by setting beyond supporting children as necessary during self-isolation  
**YES** – see below

#### South East HPT email:

Thames Valley HPT  
[ICC.TVPHEC@phe.gov.uk](mailto:ICC.TVPHEC@phe.gov.uk)  
Hampshire & IOW HPT  
[ICC.HIOW@phe.gov.uk](mailto:ICC.HIOW@phe.gov.uk)  
Surrey & Sussex HPT  
[ICC.SurreySussex@phe.gov.uk](mailto:ICC.SurreySussex@phe.gov.uk)  
Kent HPT [ICC.Kent@phe.gov.uk](mailto:ICC.Kent@phe.gov.uk)

- Case should already be isolating at home. They should remain in isolation until 10 days have passed from symptom onset.
- Send warn and inform letter to affected group (e.g., letter appendix B).
- If you have cases in staff follow the workplace guidance to ensure staff contacts are identified (details opposite)
- Review setting specific guidance and Contact DfE helpline 0800 046 8687 if further advice is required.

For staff cases who have not been identified through NHS T&T follow workplace guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance>. Employers can register employee close contacts of staff cases on NHS T&T through the self-isolation service hub 020 3743 6715

If any of the following criteria are met

- For special schools, residential/boarding school/holiday camp settings and settings that operate with 20 or fewer children, pupils, students and staff at any one time:
  - o 2 or more children, pupil, students and staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period
- For other settings:
  - o 10% or more of children, pupils, students or staff (approximately) who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period
  - o 5 children, pupil or staff or more who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period
- If your educational setting is experiencing interest from the media.
- There have been any admissions to hospital or deaths in your students or staff members due to COVID-19

Review all the control measures undertaken by educational settings

- Review ventilation measures and where practical consider moving activities outside such as exercise/singing
- Regular cleaning and promoting frequent handwashing
- Promoting twice weekly LFD for staff and Secondary and FE students
- Promote vaccination in eligible students and staff
- Ensure staff and students/parents/guardians aware of situation. Ensure warn and inform sent to the affected group
- Contact DfE helpline if you meet this escalation criteria. If you have a hospitalisation, or the situation is escalating and you need specialist advice contact your local HPT, who will advise on further measures such as the ones list below. You should also inform your Local Authority education team about any outbreaks in your setting as per local arrangements.

Additional temporary measures include: (which may be suggested by LA/PHE-HPT)

- Methods to reduce intergroup mixing, limits on large gatherings and promoting social distancing and crowding
- Reintroduction of face covering – for staff and secondary/FE students
- Increased frequency of LFD testing
- onsite ATS reintroduction/ Wider asymptomatic PCR testing

In extreme circumstances after an Outbreak Control Meeting restricting attendance for a defined group for a short period may be advised.